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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/624,490

07/23/2003

Ralf Vierich

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10/02/2006

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EXAMINER

AHN, SANGWOO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2166

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/624,490

Applicant(s)

VIERICH ET AL.

Examiner

Sangwoo Ahn

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 2, 5 - 15, 17 - 31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 2, 5 - 15, 17 - 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 21, 24, 26, 29 and 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on 7/13/2006 has been entered.

Claims 1 – 2, 5 – 15, 17 – 31 are pending in this Office Action.

Claims 3 – 4 and 16 have been canceled.

Claims 1 – 2, 5, 10 – 11 and 17 have been amended.

Claims 18 – 31 have been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 21, 24, 26, 29 and 30 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 5 recites,

“ ...

(c) collecting the parameter mappings as a single drill-through path;

if more than one parameter mapping to the same target parameter then

(d) duplicating the parameter mapping one for each duplicate target path

... ”

There seems to be typological/grammatical error.

Claim 21 recites “the system of claim 2”. There is insufficient antecedent basis.

Claim 24 recited “the computer based method of claim 10”. There is insufficient antecedent basis.

Claim 26 recites “the computer based method of claim 10”. There is insufficient antecedent basis.

Claim 29 recites "the system of claim 2". There is insufficient antecedent basis.

Claim 30 recites "the computer based method of claim 10". There is insufficient antecedent basis.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 – 17, 19 – 20, 24 – 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thomson et al.

With respect to claim 1, Thomson discloses,

In a decision support system, a system for accessing data comprising:

(a) means for generating drill-through paths, each of the drill-through path comprising at least one relationship, each relationship comprising a parameter mapping between a source and a target (paragraph 13 lines 1 – 4: drill-through, paragraph 14 lines 3 – 7: parameter mapping, paragraph 40: drill-through, paragraph 51 lines 1 – 8: drill-through and mapping, paragraph 52: drill-through relationship and mapping, et seq.);

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(b) means for accepting a request from a user (paragraph 6 lines 1 – 5, paragraph 21 lines 2 – 3, paragraph 56 line 3, et seq.);

(c) means for translating the request into selection of a drill-through path from a plurality of possible drill-through paths between the source and the target (paragraph 62 lines 1 – 13, et seq.);

(d) means for requesting data using the selected drill-through path (paragraph 62 lines 1 – 13, et seq.); and

(e) display means for displaying the requested data to the user (Figure 9, paragraph 55 lines 1 – 3, paragraph 62 lines 9 – 13, et seq.).

With respect to claim 2, Thomson discloses,

A computer-based method for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) modeling a mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each of the one or more possible drill-through paths comprising at least one relationship, each relationship comprising a parameter mapping between the source and the target (paragraph 13 lines 1 – 4: drill-through, paragraph 14 lines 3 – 7: parameter mapping, paragraph 40: drill-through, paragraph 51 lines 1 – 8: drill-through and mapping, paragraph 52: drill-through relationship and mapping, et seq.);

(b) accepting a request from a user for data (paragraph 6 lines 1 – 5, paragraph 21 lines 2 – 3, paragraph 56 line 3, et seq.);

(c) translating the request into selection of a drill-through path from the possible drill-through paths between the source and the target (paragraph 62 lines 1 – 13, et seq.);

(d) applying one or more parameters to the relationships in the selected drill-through path to produce a valid parameter mapping (paragraphs 16 – 18, 56 – 57, et seq.);

(e) transferring the requested data over the valid parameter mapping to an application (paragraphs 55 and 62, et seq.); and

(f) displaying the requested data to a user (Figure 9, paragraph 55 lines 1 – 3, paragraph 62 lines 9 – 13, et seq.).

As per claim 5, Thomson discloses,

(a) creating a list of parameters from the source and the target (paragraph 53 lines 7 – 8, paragraph 62 lines 9 – 13, et seq.);

(b) determining, for each source parameter, the parameter mapping that maps the parameter to the target (Figure 5 element 504, paragraph 21, paragraph 14 lines 3 – 7, paragraph 52 lines 6 – 9, et seq.);

(c) collecting the parameter mappings as a single drill-through path (paragraphs 21, 51 – 52, et seq.);

if more than one parameter mapping to the same target parameter then

(d) duplicating the parameter mapping one for each duplicate target path, thereby avoiding conflict in forming a filter until all the parameter mappings for each drill-through path point to unique target parameters (paragraphs 139 – 161, et seq.).

As per claim 6, Thomson discloses,

the source and the target are each of types which are selected from a group consisting of report and model (paragraphs 13, 17, 45, 51 – 52).

As per claim 7, Thomson discloses,

the source is of a type selected from a group consisting of report and model and the target is a cube derived from a dimension map using a transformation tool (Figure 5, paragraphs 13 – 17, 51 – 52).

As per claim 8, Thomson discloses,

the drill-through path is defined by Uniform Resource Locator (URL) (paragraphs 93, 118).

As per claim 9, Thomson discloses,

the drill-through pat is defied by an HTML FORM (paragraphs 51, 90).

Claims 10 – 15 are essentially the same as claims 2 and 5 – 9 and rejected based on the same rationale discussed in claims 2 and 5 – 9 rejections.

Claim 17 is essentially the same as claim 10 except it sets forth the limitation as “computer executable software code” rather than “computer-based system”, therefore rejected based on the same rationale discussed in claim 10 rejection.

As per claim 19, Thomson discloses,

within one or more of the possible drill-through paths, relationships having one or more parameters (paragraph 13 lines 1 – 4, paragraph 14 lines 3 – 7, paragraph 40, paragraph 51 lines 1 – 8, paragraph 52, et seq.).

Claims 24 – 25 are rejected based on the same rationale discussed in claim 19 rejection.

As per claim 20, Thomson discloses,

within one or more of the possible drill-through paths, relationships wherein at least the source is defined using meta-data contained in a meta-data model (paragraph 95 lines 1 – 6, et seq.).

Claims 26 – 27 are rejected based on the same rationale discussed in claim 20 rejection.

As per claim 28, Thomson discloses,

means for converting data during a drill-through operation (paragraph 131 lines 12 – 14, et seq.).

Claims 30 – 31 are rejected based on the same rationale discussed in claim 30 rejection.

As per claim 29, Thomson discloses,

at least one relationship includes a parameter mapping between the source and the target and data conversion functions (paragraph 13 lines 1 – 4, paragraph 14 lines 3 – 7, paragraph 40, paragraph 51 lines 1 – 8, paragraph 52, paragraph 131 lines 12 – 14, et seq.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18 and 21 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomson in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,682,526 issued to Timothy L. Smokoff et al (hereinafter "Smokoff").

As per claim 18, Thomson discloses the system of claim 1 and,

parameters, relationships, drill-through paths, as discussed above under 35

U.S.C. 102 section.

Thomson does not explicitly disclose the use of one or more "placeholders" and replacing the placeholder by user supplied parameter.

However, Smokoff discloses the use of one or more "placeholders" and replacing the placeholder by user supplied parameter (column 3 lines 58 – 60, et seq.). At the time of the present invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the data processing art to combine the two references because Smokoff's method of using "placeholders" would have enabled Thomson's overall system to flexibly organize, record, and display information, and provide users to customize information hierarchy in a way that is optimized for the structure and procedures of an organization.

Claims 21 – 23 are rejected based on the same rationale discussed in claim 18 rejection.

Response to Arguments

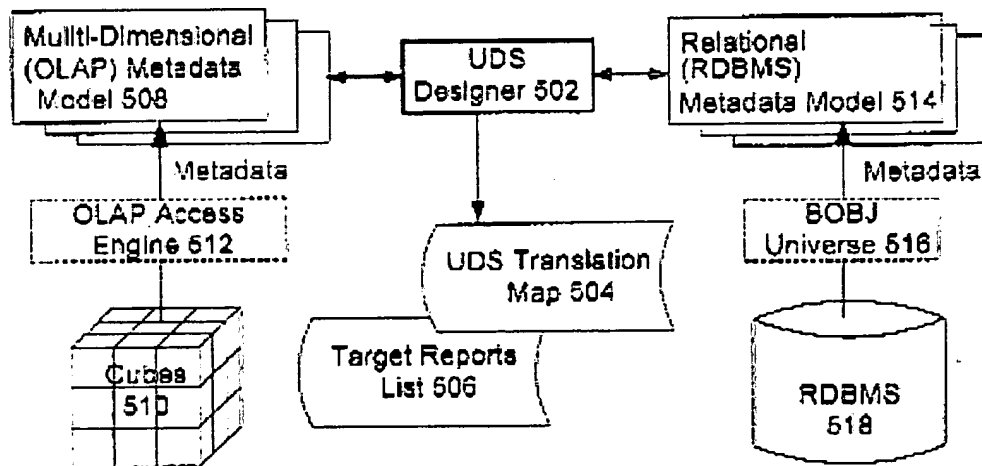
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 10 and 17 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive (Also, Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 10 and 17 are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection).

Applicant argued:

- "drill-through paths" is neither suggested nor taught by Thomson.

Examiner respectfully traverses the Applicant's argument because:

- Thomson clearly teaches "drill-through paths", each comprising at least one relationship, each relationship comprising a parameter mapping between a source and a target (paragraph 13 lines 1 – 4: drill-through, paragraph 14 lines 3 – 7: parameter mapping, paragraph 40: drill-through, paragraph 51 lines 1 – 8: drill-through and mapping, paragraph 52: drill-through relationship and mapping, et seq.).



Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18 – 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sangwoo Ahn whose telephone number is (571) 272-5626. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571)272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Sangwoo Ahn
Patent Examiner
AU 2166

9/25/2006 SW



HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER